

Epidemiology of pancreatic cancer : a global approach

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Propositions
accompanying the thesis

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF PANCREATIC CANCER: A GLOBAL APPROACH

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September 3 2014

- 1) Pancreatic cancer is the single major neoplasm showing unfavorable trends in most populations over the last decades.
- 2) Tobacco smoking is the major risk factor for pancreatic cancer, with a relative risk consistently above 2 in moderate to heavy smokers.
- 3) Type 2 diabetes mellitus is another relevant factor in pancreatic cancer etiology.
- 4) A diet rich in fruit and vegetables and limited in meat/animal products, (refined) cereals, sugars, and alcohol can have a beneficial effect on pancreatic cancer, as on other digestive neoplasms.
- 5) The information provided by this work can be translated into important prevention recommendations, thus giving a real contribution to the control of pancreatic cancer on a population level.
- 6) Control of tobacco and alcohol, favorable changes in dietary habits, as well as improved diagnosis and treatment have contributed to the reduced cancer mortality observed since the late 1980' in many high-income countries.
- 7) Notwithstanding various limitations and drawbacks, case-control studies gave an essential contribution in the identification of etiologic factors of common neoplasms.
- 8) The complexity of biological phenomena and our limited understanding of many of the underlying processes hamper a deterministic assessment of disease causation.
- 9) Death in old age is inevitable but death before old age is not (Richard Doll, 1994).